



# JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

615 Sheridan Street • Port Townsend • Washington • 98368  
[www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org](http://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org)

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## **Clean Indoor Air Act (RCW 70.160 — Initiative 901)** **How the Smoke-free Law Affects You** **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why did the law change?**

The law was changed to protect employees and the public in Washington State from exposure to secondhand smoke. It amends the 1985 Clean Indoor Air Act to prohibit smoking in all public places and within twenty-five (25) feet or less of building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or windows that open. I-901 passed by a majority in all counties in Washington State. In Jefferson County, I-901 passed by a 63% majority.

### **What does the law require me to do?**

If you are a business that is open to the public you are required to post "No Smoking" signs that are clearly visible at each entrance and in other prominent locations and notify employees and patrons that smoking is prohibited in your business.

### **What types of places are covered under the new law?**

All indoor public spaces and workspaces including restaurants, bars, skating rinks, bowling alleys and casinos, are required to be smoke-free. Hotels and motels must ensure that at least 75% of the rooms are smoke-free.

### **Does the law apply to private clubs such as Yacht Clubs, Country Clubs, and Fraternal Organizations?**

Yes. The law applies to private clubs that have employees, volunteers or that allow guests. These businesses are required to be smoke-free.

### **Is smoking allowed in outside seating areas?**

No. Smoking is prohibited in any outdoor area that is serviced by employees. Employee service includes but is not limited to taking orders, serving, cleaning, or passing through an area.

### **Can I provide an employee smoking room?**

No. The law prohibits employers from providing employee smoking rooms.

### **Where can employees go to smoke?**

Employees can smoke outside, at least twenty-five (25) feet away from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or windows that open.

### **What should I do if someone starts smoking in an area where smoking is prohibited?**

It is the responsibility of the business owner to inform the individual that he/she is in violation of the law. If a customer refuses to stop smoking or relocate to an area that is at least twenty-five (25) feet from building entrances, exits, ventilation intakes or windows that open, contact your local law enforcement agency (City Police or County Sheriff).

### **Where can I support employees or customers who want to quit smoking?**

Contact the Washington State Tobacco Quitline at 1-877-270-STOP (7867) or [quitline.com](http://quitline.com)

### **Where can I learn more about Secondhand Smoke and related issues?**

The following sites can provide a gateway to tobacco-related issues and resources:

[www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/health/tobacco\\_programs.html](http://www.jeffersoncountypublichealth.org/health/tobacco_programs.html)

[www.secondhandsmokesyou.com](http://www.secondhandsmokesyou.com)

[www.doh.wa.gov/tobacco](http://www.doh.wa.gov/tobacco)

**\* This summary is not intended to be comprehensive or to provide an authoritative legal interpretation\***

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